

Message Text

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SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5568

AEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE 728

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

US MISSION NEW YORK 1338

UNCLAS PRETORIA 4209

USIA FOR IOP/IAA

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: MEDIA REPORTING KISSINGER AFRICA TRIP

1. JOHANNESBURG AFRIKAANS PAPER " DIE TRANSVALER" FRONT PAGE
HEADLINE SEPTEMBER 17 " IT'S PEACE OR WAR." REPORT NOTED
RHODESIAN PREMIER SMITH'S PRESENCE IN PRETORIA AND MANDATE
FOR HIM TO TALK WITH KISSINGER, SAW LIKELIHOOD SMITH PARTICIPATION
IN WEEKEND TALKS. PAPER EDITORIALIZED QUOTE THERE CAN BE NO
ILLUSIONS LEFT ABOUT DR. KISSINGER'S PURPOSE WHEN HE ARRIVES
IN PRETORIA. COLD WATER HAS BEEN THROWN ON THE MISSION BY
THE SOVIET DENOUNCEMENT AND PESSIMISM OF NYERERE AND RULING
RHODESIA FRONT CHAIRMAN FROST. IT IS GRATIFYING FOR RSA
THAT SWA IS LESSER PROBLEM. RHODEISA IS MORE SERIOUS MATTER...
DR. KISSINGER IS NOT A MAGICIAN BUT A NEGOTIATOR. FLEXIBILITY
IS REQUIRED OF ALL PARTIES. THOSE WHO REMAIN INFLEXIBLE WILL
WRECK THE CHANCES OF PEACE. UNQUOTE.

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2. JOHANNESBURG AFRIKAANS PAPER " BEELD" FRONT PAGE HEADLINE
SEPTEMBER 17 " SMITH AND DR. K BOTH IN S.A." REPORT SAID
QUOTE MR. SMITH, ALSO A KEY FIGURE IN THE SITUATION, WILL BE
IN RSA THIS WEEKEND, OSTENSIBLY TO WATCH RUGBY. BUT HIS
PRESENCE IS MORE MEANINGFUL IN LIGHT OF ENDORSEMENT BY HIS
PARTY'S CONGRESS FOR HIM TO UNDERTAKE NEGOTIATIONS ON
RHODESIA'S CONSTITUTIONAL FUTURE. UNQUOTE. EDITORIAL
PAGE POLITICAL COLUMIST BOB VAN WALSEM WROTE QUOTE THERE ARE
SO MANY OBSTACLES IN WAY OF KISSINGER'S PEACE OFFENSIVE THAT
ONE MUST QUESTION WHY IT IS BEING UNDERTAKEN. THE CONCLUSION
MUST BE THAT THERE ARE GREATER DANGERS IN NOT UNDERTAKING
IT. DR. K SITS BETWEEN TWO FIRES: OVERHASTINESS COULD WRECK
HIS PLANS, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME THERE IS NOT MUCH TIME
LEFT. SUCCESS WILL PAY UNCERTAIN DIVIDENDS, WHILE FAILURE
WILL BE DISASTROUS. THIS IS KISSINGER'S MOST TESTING MISSION.
UNQUOTE.

3. PRETORIA AFRIKAANS PAPER " OGGENDBLAD" FRONT PAGE HEADLINE
SEPTEMBER 17 " SMITH'S PARTY AGREES TO TALKS." REPORT SIMILAR
ABOVE. EDITORIAL DISTURBED AT PESSIMISM OF NYERERE AND
KAUNDA. QUOTE ANTI-WHITE EXTREMISM FLOURISHES IN THE O.A.U.,
BUT WE SHOULD KEEP CALM. WE MUST UNDERSTAND KAUNDA'S
POSITION. HIS MEETING (WITH VORSTER AND SMITH) AT VICTORIA
FALLS DAMAGED HIS IMAGE IN THE THIRD WORLD. THE FAILURE OF
THAT EXERCISE CANNOT BE BLAMED ON HIM OR RSA. NEVERTHELESS,
THE PRESENT TALKS CAN BE DAMAGED BY PREMATURE NEGATIVISM.
IT IS INCOMPREHENSIBLE THAT DR. KAUNDA TALKS OF WAR AS THE
ONLY ALTERNATIVE JUST WHEN EVERY EFFORT IS BEING MADE
TOAAVERT IT. UNQUOTE.

4. JOHANNESBURG PAPER AIMED AT BLACK READERS " THE WORLD"
FRONT PAGE HEADLINE SEPTEMBER 17 " ALL READY FOR KISSINGER
ARRIVAL" ABOVE ROUTINE REPORT. ONE FRONT PAGE REPORT SAID
QUOTE PREMIER IAN SMITH YESTERDAY WON THE UNANIMOUS APPROVAL
OF HIS RULING RHODESIA FRONT PARTY TO NEGOTIATE RHODESIA'S
RACE PROBLEMS WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER. UNQUOTE. ANOTHER FRONT
PAGE REPORT SAID QUOTE A PLEA TO DR. KISSINGER NOT ONLY TO
MEET HOMELAND LEADERS BUT ALSO " THE TRUE LEADERS OF THE
BLACK CONSCIOUSNESS MOVEMENT" HAS BEEN MADE IN A COMBINED
STATEMENT BY VARIOUS ORGANIZATIONS IN SOUTH AFRICA'S BLACK
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COMMUNITY. THE BLACK PEOPLES CONVENTION, THE BLACK PARENTS
ASSOCIATION AND THE " CHARGE OF RELEASE DETAINEES" (CORD)
ISSUED A STATEMENT YESTERDAY CALLING ON DR. KISSINGER TO
ALSO MEET LEADERS SUCH AS DR. MANAS BUTHELEZI, CHAIRMAN OF
THE BPA. " WE HOPEHE WILL NOT GET A ONE-SIDED VIEW OF THE
SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY. TO PREVENT THIS HE SHOULD NOT ONLY
SPEAK TO HOMELAND LEADERS BUT SHOULD ALSO DEMAND TO SPEAK TO
PEOPLE IN DETENTION, WHO ARE REGARDED AS THE TRUE LEADERS OF

BLACKS BY MANY PEOPLE," SAID THE STATEMENT. UNQUOTE.

5. SAME PAPER EDITORIALIZED QUOTE UNITED STATES SECRETARY OF STATE, DR. HENRY KISSINGER, WHO IS DUE IN PRETORIA TODAY, WOULD DO WELL TO BEAR IN MIND THAT HIS SOUTH AFRICAN VISIT COMES AT A TIME WHEN THERE IS A DEFINITE ANTI-AMERICAN FEELING AMONG MANY BLACKS. HIS INITIATIVES FOR PEACE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA ARE VIEWED WITH DEEP SUSPICION AMONG MANY OF THE COUNTRY'S YOUNG BLACKS, WHO FEAR ANOTHER AMERICAN " SELL OUT" OF THEIR ASPIRATIONS. THIS FEELING HAS DEVELOPED OVER THE YEARS FOLLOWING AMERICA'S ROLE OF PLAYING GODFATHER TO SOUTH AFRICA AT SUCH FORUMS AS THE UNITED NATIONS, THE INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATION AND OTHERS. BUT MATTERS CAME TO A HEAD DURING THE ANGOLAN CIVIL WAR WHEN THE UNITED STATES SIDED WITH SOUTH AFRICA. IT IS AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND THAT THE VISIT BY DR. KISSINGER MUST BE SEEN. FOR BLACKS WILL BE WATCHING HIS EVERY STEP. THEY WILL BE PARTICULARLY WAITING TO SEE WHO HE INVITES TO HIS TALKS--AS IT HAS ALREADY BEEN HINTED THAT HE WILL HAVE A MEETING WITH BLACK LEADERS. IF HIS TALKS ARE TO BE WITH HOMELAND LEADERS ONLY, THEN THIS WILL GO A LONG WAY TO CONFIRMING BLACK SUSPICIONS THA THE UNITED STATES CONDONES THE SYSTEM OF SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT. IF ON THE OTHER HAND HE INSISTS ON TALKING TO BLACK LEADERS WHO OPERATE OUTSIDE THE SYSTEM IN THE URBAN AREAS, THEN HE WILL AT LEAST HAVE GIVEN CREDIBILITY TO HIS EFFORTS. THERE IS MUCH MORE AT STAKE THAN MERELY THE FUTURES OF RHODESIA AND NAMIBIA. THE INFLUENCE OF THE WEST ON THE WHOLE BLACK CONTINENT IS THE MAJOR PRIZE TO BE WON, PROVIDED KISSINGER PLAYS HIS CARDS WELL. IF HE FAILS, AFRICA WILL UNFORTUNATELY HAVE BEEN GIVEN TO THE COMMUNIST BLOC ON A PLATTER.. UNQUOTE.

6. PIETERMARITZBURG ENGLISH PAPER " NATAL WITNESS" CARRIED ROUTINE REPORT FRONT PAGE HEADLINED " DR. K ARRIVES IN RSA UNCLASSIFIED

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TODAY." PAPER EDITORIALIZED QUOTE DR. KISSINGER'S GOALS ARE NOBEL ONES: TO THWART FURTHER SOVIET EXPANSIONISM AND TO CREATE A NEGOTIATING FRAMEWORK THAT WILL LEAD TO PEACE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. THEY ARE SHARED BY MAJOR WESTERN POWERS, BY MODERATE BLACKS LIKE KAUNDS, KHAMA AND NYERERE AS WELL AS BY VORSTER AND SMITH. AS TO HOW THEY SHOULD BE ACHIEVED THERE IS REGRETTABLY MUCH LESS AGREEMENT. THE PROBLEMS FACING KISSINGER ARE DAUNTING AND THE PROSPECTS OF SUCCESS LESS THAN GOOD. HE IS BEING CALLED UPON TO MEDIATE BETWEEN PEOPLE WITH WIDELY DIVERGING POLITICAL IDEOLOGIES, AT VARYING STAGES OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND MOST DIFFICULT OF ALL, OF OPPOSITE COLORS. HE HAS MADE HIS TASK HARDER BY HANDLING HIS MOST INTRACTABLE PROBLEM-- RHODESIA-- THROUGH THE OFFICES OF A RELUCTANT AGENT. AND TIME IS DUE TO RUN OUT ON HIM IN A MATTER OF MONTHS... WE WISH DR. KISSINGER,

MR. VORSTER AND MR. SMITH WELL. UNQUOTE.

7. NOTE: CAPE TOWN PAPERS DOMINATED BY NEWS OF GENERAL
STRIKE BY COLORED WORKERS WITH 12 PEOPLE REPORTED KILLED.
HUGHES

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